

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a location request from a requestor for a location ~~property~~ associated with a computing device ~~location of a computer system~~;
~~determining whether a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified; and~~
if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has not been specified, requesting a privacy preference associated with the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preference indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor ~~in response to receiving the request.~~
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified,
applying the specified preference to determine whether to provide the location ~~property~~ to the requestor.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
preventing the location ~~property~~ from being provided to the requestor if the privacy preference specifies that the location ~~property~~ is to be kept private, and
providing the location ~~property~~ to the requestor if the privacy preference specifies that the location ~~property~~ is to be disclosed to the requestor.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein requesting includes providing a pop-up dialog box.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy for individual location properties.
7. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
enabling a user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing;
preventing a location property from being provided to a requestor if the user has disabled location-aware computing;
if the user has enabled location-aware computing, ~~determining whether a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified; and~~

if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has not been specified, requesting a privacy preference associated with the requestor from the user ~~in response to receiving a request from the requestor~~ for a location property associated with a computing device system, wherein the privacy preference indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein enabling the user to selectively enable and disable location-aware computing includes providing an option during basic input/output system configuration to enable and disable location-aware computing.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including setting a location privacy setting bit in response to the user selectively enabling or disabling location-aware computing.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein setting the location privacy setting bit includes setting a bit in BIOS memory.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further including receiving a request for the location property from the requestor, and querying the location privacy setting bit to determine whether location-aware computing is enabled or disabled.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein setting and querying are performed using Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI)-based techniques.

13. (Currently amended) A machine-accessible medium storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

in response to receiving a request from a requestor for a location property, determine whether a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified;

if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified, applying the privacy preference to determine whether to provide or withhold the location property; and

if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has not been specified, request ~~that~~ the privacy preference associated with the requestor from the user, wherein the privacy preference indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor ~~be specified in response to receiving the request.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-accessible medium of claim 13 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to: provide a pop-up dialog box to request the privacy preference.

16. (Original) The machine-accessible medium of claim 13 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
determine whether the machine is enabled for location-aware computing.

17. (Currently amended) The machine-accessible medium of claim 16 further storing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
if the machine is not enabled for location-aware computing, preventing the machine from providing the requested location property regardless of whether the privacy preference has been specified and, if specified, regardless of the contents of the privacy preference.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
in response to receiving a request for a location property from a requestor, determining whether a computing device ~~computer system~~ is enabled for location-aware computing;
if the computing device ~~computer~~ is enabled for location-aware computing, determining whether a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified;
if the privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified, applying the privacy preference to determine whether to provide the location property; and
if the privacy preference associated with the requestor has not been specified, requesting the privacy preference associated with the requestor, wherein the privacy preference indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor in response to receiving the request.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein requesting the privacy preference comprises providing a pop-up dialog box.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein determining whether a computing device ~~computer system~~ is enabled for location-aware computing comprises determining a value stored in a location privacy setting in basic input/output system (BIOS) memory.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
enabling a user to enable and disable location-aware computing through a BIOS configuration routine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising:
using WMI/ACPI instrumentation techniques to set and determine the value stored in the location privacy setting.

23. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
a bus to communicate information;
a processor coupled to the bus;

a memory coupled to the bus to store information;
an antenna coupled to the bus to receive a signal to indicate a location of the system; and

a machine-accessible storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to:

in response to receiving a request for a location property associated with the system from a requestor, determine whether a privacy preference associated with the requestor has been specified;

if a privacy preference has been specified, apply the privacy preference to determine whether to provide the requested location property; and

if a privacy preference associated with the requestor has not been specified, request that the privacy preference be specified in response to receiving the request, wherein the privacy preference indicates how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the machine-accessible storage medium further stores instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the system to determine whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the memory includes a basic input/output system (BIOS) memory and wherein determining whether the system is enabled for location-aware computing includes determining a value stored in a location in the BIOS memory.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein requesting the privacy preference includes providing a pop-up dialog box.

28. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the requestor is one of a client application and a location-based service.

29. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a query requesting one or more location properties;
determining if location aware computing is enabled;
if the location aware computing is enabled, then

determining whether user privacy preferences have been specified;

if user privacy preferences have not been specified, requesting user privacy preferences associated with each of the one or more location properties requested, wherein the privacy preferences indicate how much or how little location information is to be shared with the requestor;

determining whether privacy is indicated for each of the requested one or more location properties;

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is not indicated, obtaining the requested one or more location properties and sending the requested one or more location properties; and

for any of the requested one or more location properties in which privacy is indicated, blocking the requested one or more location properties for which privacy is indicated.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein requesting user privacy preferences associated with each of the one or more location properties includes providing a pop-up dialog box.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein providing a pop-up dialog box includes enabling a user to selectively enable and disable privacy preferences for each individual location property.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a privacy menu allows the user to select the privacy preference for the requestor.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein a privacy menu comprises location properties, the location properties including at least one of latitude, longitude, altitude, street address, city, state, postal code, and/or country, and wherein the user may select one, more than one, or none of the location properties for the privacy preference of the requestor.